

faith matters

The Roxbury Congregational Church
A Congregation in the United Church of Christ



Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
In-person and Virtual
Vol. 280, Issue 5, May 2023

Church Office, 24 Church Street
Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703
Church Office: 860-355-1978
e-mail: office@roxburychurch.org

Pastoral Reflections

The Reverend David F. Peters, Minister

April showers bring May flowers... Well with the amount of rain we have had lately and the warmer than normal temperatures, we should be having a whole lot of beautiful flowers.

This got me thinking of flowers and the different types of flowers. I thought about the beautiful flowers that cover for something different below the surface. There are the flowers that are beautiful but also are poisonous or have thorns below.

May has been designated as Mental Health Awareness month. Some congregations choose to become WISE congregations. (A WISE congregation has joined the mission to being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of the community and the wider world.)

I believe based on anecdotal evidence that people with significant mental health issues has increased following the pandemic. Social isolation and fear have brought about an uneasiness and questioning of previously assumed foundations of our lives and society as a whole. This combined with an increasing self-actualizing lifestyle have left many to see themselves as the masters of their own universe and meaning of life. The foundation of a higher power has become less of an influence in our lives.

Unfortunately, like the flower I described above, we may see many of those who we come in contact with as being all together and with no problems or significant cares in the world. Fortunately, we have seen an increased awareness of mental health and the acceptance of getting treatment in whatever form that takes.

Maybe we should consider becoming a “WISE” congregation?

“Since **one in four individuals lives with a diagnosable mental health condition**, it’s safe to say that individuals in our congregation are dealing with any variety of mental health and substance use challenges every day. Due to stigma, **many of these people may be reluctant to either seek help professionally or speak about it with their pastor or other members of their church**. However, an atmosphere of openness and acceptance in a congregation makes members, friends, and visitors more likely to feel safe and free from judgment. This acceptance and sense of safety can help create a place of belonging, where truly everyone, no matter where they are on life’s journey, is welcome. “ – UCC’s WISE Congregation for Mental Health Toolkit

Our denominations’ Mental Health Network can be found at www.mhn-ucc.org

Maybe we can be the May flower that helps others to see the beauty of life in a healthier way?

Grace and Peace,

David

Saturday, May 13 – A Busy Day! **Men's Breakfast**

All men of the Congregation are invited to come to the Monthly Men's Breakfast on the Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

This month it will be on May 13. Come join us before the Spring Clean-up!

Spring Cleanup / Fixup Session

We are blessed to have a fine building and property and it shows! To have that, we need to take care of it and keep everything clean, neat and well taken care of.

On Saturday, May 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. you are asked to come by and take on one of the many jobs of different skill levels. The Work List includes:

- Recementing the iron handrail in front of church
- Spot painting in Fellowship Hall

- Putting away the snow shovels that such heavy use this winter along with the sand barrels.

- Install some gutter screens on the Parish House

- Change the air filters throughout the building

- The Boy Scouts will be a lot of the outside tasks like picking up branches and twigs.

Your efforts help to keep operational costs down.

Community CPR Class

The Church and the Roxbury Ambulance Association are sponsoring a Community CPR Course on Saturday, May 13 beginning at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Ambulance is covering all costs including certification.

As of press time the class is full! Thank you!

Trivia Night

Quizmaster Joan Temple is already compiling questions for the May 13th Trivia Night in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 for folks to arrive and decorate their tables.

Table groups of 6 are asked. If you are solo or a pair, just let Chris Childs know and he will put other in the same situation together to form a team. It is popular and a ton of fun! (Question: How many pounds in a ton?)

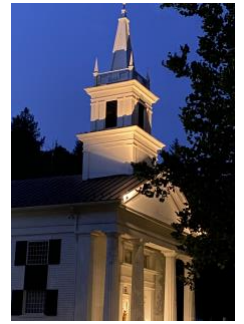
Questions or if you want to book a table

cchilds287@gmail.com

Home phone 860 355 9067

Steeple Lighting

The Steeple can be lit in loving memory of someone or in celebration for a month. We ask for a donation of \$25 to the Memorial Fund. Contact Rev. Peters to make arrangements.



May: Peter & Anne Evans

in memory of Elizabeth & Edwin Evans

June: Karen S. Bailey

in celebration of family and loved ones

July: Samantha Steinis

in memory of Rosemary Ermini

August: Patricia Lowe

*in memory of Bucky Lowe
& Tammy Hinckley*

September: Luanne Awlasewicz

In memory of Diane Meade

October: Jeanne Steers

in memory of Roger & Claudette

Guillemette

November Open

December: Open

Mother's Day Cards are on Sale

The Mission Committee is once again selling Mother's Day cards to support Church World Services' Blanket Program. Each \$10 colorful Mother's Day themed card supports a gift to someone in need such as a blanket which can be used for warmth, shelter, carrying goods to the market as well as sheltering young children. Our congregation has a long and generous history with this program. Watch for the table with the cards for sale after worship on Sundays, April 23, 30 and May 7.

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,



Blanket the World with Love!
cwsblankets.org/mothersday

Father's Day Cards – Tools of Hope, will be on sale beginning May 28th.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

4 Jacob Collette
19 Autumn Collette
19 Rebecca Mulhare
25 Charlie Meade
27 Pat Fraley

Ladies Luncheon Returns!

Mark your calendar for noon, Sunday, May 7 for the annual tradition.

Moms, invite your daughters, Daughters, invite your mom or anyone invite someone who you think of as a mother figure or a daughter you wish you had...

At The Marketplace - Woodbury \$35

We are working to have it less.

Reservations Required: Jeanne Steers
jsteers@me.com or 354-7484

Rummage/ Bake Sale May 20th 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Our church Rummage/Bake sale will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 - 2:00. We take gently-used clothing, household items, small working appliances, linens, garden items, plants, small furniture, etc. We do not take exercise equipment, computers, luggage, baby cribs, electronics, and text books. If you are undecided, you may call Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 before 7:00 p.m. to ask and to volunteer.



Items may be dropped off beginning Monday, May 15 through Thursday, May 18. The door into Fellowship Hall will be unlocked all week.

Clothing donations **MUST** be clean and in good condition. Items must be either on hangars or folded in boxes. Clothing in garbage bags or plastic grocery bags will **NOT** be accepted.

At 1:30, we offer a \$5 bag sale - everything you can fit into a paper grocery bag for \$5.

I know many of you just love to bake, so please plan to bake for the sale. Some people come just for our wonderful baked goodies :) We offer free coffee all day.

Important:

Misc. Items in the Church Kitchen

In our Church Kitchen on the tall metal rolling rack there are a number of dishes and containers.

It is time for those to be claimed or donated to the Rummage Sale to be sold. Please stop by after worship and check. Thank you!

As you may have seen in a recent edition of eFaith Matters, Colby Kalisher stopped by while on a trip to visit her family in Connecticut. She misses you all and wanted to be sure you had her new SC address:

Colby Kalisher

**300 Woodhaven Drive, Apt. 1403
Hilton Head Island SC 29928-7524
860-796-8671**

We miss you too Colby!

Update from Simply Smiles

An update from one of our Mission Partners – Simply Smiles who work in Mexico and on the Rez in South Dakota.

What's happening with our volunteer programs - With many eagerly planning their summer and fall schedules, we wanted to provide an update on our volunteer programs: We are not yet able to bring back our volunteer opportunities, and we likely won't be able to do so for several years.



2016 Mission Trip to the Rez in South Dakota

On-the-ground volunteer efforts were instrumental in getting us to where we are now and formed a cornerstone for what we have built in Mexico and on the Reservation.

As Simply Smiles expands and our needs change, we look forward to exploring how we can implement and provide meaningful volunteer opportunities again.

The Thomas Canfield Society

Minister of the Roxbury Congregational Church
from 1743-1795

Individuals who left or will be leaving a legacy to
the Roxbury Congregational Church
through their Invested Funds.

Emma Schmidli
Mabel Bernhardt Smith
Ruth Johnson
James Kling
Jerry B. Allford
Gertrude E. Caveness
Clark Makinson
Marian Skedgell
Mary Elizabeth Peck
Elizabeth "Betty" Blyn
Susan Stauffacher
Robert Curtis

As of May 2023

Your gift can create a lasting legacy

For over 200 years people like you have been making bequests and life income gifts that have helped generations of church people. Just like you, shared God's love to the Roxbury community and the wider world. Perhaps this congregation has made a difference in your life, provided important support and comfort to a neighbor or friend, or inspiration that led you to change your life.

Now you can honor that gift with one of your own. By your charitable financial plans including the church, you can make a difference in the future of the church. With that planned gift, you can become a member of the Thomas Canfield Society.

Types of Planned Gifts

Gifts through your will
Appreciated Stock
Charitable Remainder Trust
Gifts of Life Insurance.

For more information, please contact the Church
Office.

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center

223 Low Road, Sharon, CT
860-364-5526

Summer Conferences - 2023

Registrations are now open!

Conferences fill *f a s t*! - So plan now or you may not be able to attend when or what you desire!

Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake, view the 2023summer brochure, and look through the upcoming sessions at <https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp>

The Summer Conferences feature week-long sessions for those entering grades 4-12 in the fall. Also, there are Family Camps- half-week sessions!

Silver Lake provides life-changing experiences of God's love in creation!

Speak with Rev. David with any questions as well to apply for a grant from the Church to go towards the cost of a session at Silver Lake!

The Camp is American Camping Association certified.



Silver Lake is a camp and retreat center of our Southern New England Conference, UCC. Each year it hosts and sponsors Summer Camp sessions, Local Church retreats, family retreats, and family day outings "in God's backyard!"

for more information about Silver Lake: go to silverlakect.org

Silver Lake 2023 Open House

Sunday, May 21, 2023, 1-5 pm

Silver Lake staff, counselors, and deans are ready to introduce you to camp!

Take a walking tour, see the cabins and other buildings, find out where the Freds (bathrooms) are, and check out the ropes courses and the waterfront.

A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first time camper to know what to expect — you might even run into a new friend who will be in the same program this summer! We'll provide the cookies, you bring your questions.

Feel free to arrive and leave anytime between 1 and 5 p.m.

We will be giving walking tours of camp periodically throughout the afternoon, with the last tour starting at 4 p.m.

**AND here is another Summer
Experience for Adults and older teens...**



An island off the coast of Portsmouth, Star Island, NH is a wonderful week-long time of renewal and enrichment for adults and youth alike.

Their vision is to create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.

For more information and register for Summer 2022 Conferences, go to their website starisland.org.

For questions speak with Charlie & Sue Stauffacher or Nancy Desmond. Church Scholarships are available, see Rev. Peters.

www.starisland.org

Strengthen The Church Special Offering

Strengthen The Church is a special offering on May 28 (Pentecost) to support these Discipleship ministries of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ:

- Center for Transformational Leadership
- Outdoor Ministries (including Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Irons Homestead, and Edwards Retreat Center)
- Faith Formation Ministries

80% of your gift will be put to work in Southern New England. 20% of your gift will support national ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Strengthen the Church is one of the 5 UCC Special Offerings each year. The Roxbury Church has been supportive of all 5 offerings over the past years.

We encourage you to support Strengthen the Church!

So Your Minister Can Help / Support You & Yours

If you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family should notify our minister of the hospitalization as soon as possible, by calling 860-355-1978. With current federal regulations, clergy are not able to find this information from the hospital.

If you are asked at admission if you have a Church, please say "Roxbury Congregational Church."

Upcoming Schedule of Special Events

May 7 CWS Mother's Day card sale

Ladies Luncheon

May 13 Spring Church Work Day 9-1

Community CPR Class 1 pm

Trivia Night 7 pm

May 14 Mother's Day

May 20 Rummage & Bake Sale 9-2

May 21 Long River Concert – 3:00 p.m.

May 28 Pentecost – wear Red

Strengthen the Church offering received

June 4 Father's Day Card sale Mission

June 10 Art Show Drop off 10-4

June 11 Father's Day Card sale

June 16, 17 & 18 Art at the Meetinghouse

June 18 Father's Day

Choir and Music Appreciation Day

July & August Worship time is at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Peters on Vacation (July)

Sabbatical (Aug)

August 26 Beef Barbecue 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

September 9 Tag Sale, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

September 10 United Worship with Episcopal Church at Apple Lane with Picnic

October 14 – NEW! -Progressive Supper

American Flag Cases

for Church Member Veterans

Through generous donations of funds for wood and the craftsmanship of Chuck Farrell, we are offering to veteran church members only, a flag box.



This will be on a limited basis. If you are interested, please speak with Chuck. Thank you Chuck!

Roxbury Church

Reaches Gold Metal Status

For Financial Transparency and Trust

Recently we attained this level through GuideStar which is one place donor check to be sure that organizations are clear about their purpose, financial controls and organization. Well Done



Word & Sacrament for May 2023

Underlined scriptures are for Lay Readers

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

John 20:19-23

Greeters: Janet & Chris Childs

Reader: Chris Childs

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Refreshments: Barbara Cover

Sunday, May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Greeters: Carol Goodwin

Reader: Vail Barrett

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Refreshments: Vail Barrett

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Acts 14:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Greeter: Barbara Biafore & Joan Temple

Reader: Barbara Biafore

Zoom Tech: Barbara Cover

Refreshments: _____

Sunday, May 21

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mental Health Sunday

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Greeters: Dariel & Bill Curren

Reader: Bill Curren

Zoom Tech: Charlie Stauffacher

Refreshments: _____

Sunday, May 28

2023 Flower Calendar

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have a particular day/date on which you would like to place flowers on the altar, please add your name to the calendar or call the church office. Please write clearly and add any memorial or celebratory dedication you wish printed in the bulletin.

Easter 2023 Flowers Donated by

Loved Ones by Michael and Dorothy Wilcox

Loved Ones by Carol Goodwin

Loved Ones by Remy Shaber

Loved Ones by Barbara and Norm Cover

Loved Ones by David Peters and Susan

Zappulla-Peters

June Faith Matters Deadline: May 15th.

Email submissions to: office@roxburychurch.org

Church Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Easy Ways You Can Support Roxbury Church



Cash 4 Causes Card Program

Coordinator Susan Zappulla-Peters 860-355-8830
(zappullapeters@mac.com)

It is hoped that you would consider getting in the habit, like some, to purchase your cards on a monthly basis

We would like to have the second Sunday of each Month be Card Ordering Sunday. We would like to have a set day so it is easy to remember to order and easy for the processing... Next Date: May 14

The concept is simple.

- You buy the card at the face value (ex. \$100) and we purchase a cash card from the store.
- They charge approx. 5% less and the church keeps the difference.
- You spend the same amount, but by using the card, your Church gets a 5% benefit!!

We work primarily with Stop & Shop, Big Y and Shop Rite cards

Contact Susan directly or speak with her on Sundays after worship. She will try to have a few cards for the different stores with her.

Recycling Printer & Toner Cartridges

Drop off your used ink and toner cartridges at Church and we recycle them at Staples for store credit. Use the box in Fellowship Hall or the closet across from the Men's bathroom.

LaBonne's Receipts

A continuing Thank You to everyone who contributes LaBonne's receipts to the church. This has been an on-going source of revenue to add to our mission funds. Please save your receipts and place them in the wooden box on the table in Fellowship Hall. Questions to Sue Stauffacher at 860-354-1274.

Thomas Canfield Society Members

The following is the current listing of the members of the Thomas Canfield Society.
They have remembered the Roxbury Church in their will. We are most grateful for their generosity. They include:

Supporting Third World Artisans



SERRV Shop

Looking to buy a unique gift and help others at the same time? Try SERRV! Our shop is open each Sunday after worship in Fellowship Hall with affordable jewelry, handicrafts, candles, tea, soup mixes and so on. Questions? Speak with Susan Zappulla-Peters. 355-8830.

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments	1	2 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	3 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4 ■ 7:00 PM Deacons	5 Cinco de Mayo ■ 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	6 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
7 ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments ■ 11:45 AM Trustees ■ 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch	8 ■ 9:00 AM Daily Bread Food Pantry team	9 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	10 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	11	12	13 ■ 8:00 AM Mens Break-fast ■ 9:00 AM Church Work Day ■ 9:00 AM Work Day ■ 10:30 AM Mindful ■ 1:00 PM Community ■ 7:00 PM Trivia Night
14 Rummage Sale Setup	15	16	17	18	19	20 ■ 9:00 AM Rummage & Bake Sale 9-2 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
21 Mother's Day ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments	22	23 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	24 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
28 Red Nose Day! ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments ■ 11:45 AM Council ■ 3:00 PM Long River	29	30 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	31 ■ 3:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Meal ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	1 ■ 7:00 PM Roxbury Housing Trust Directors	2	3 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation
4 Strengthen the Church ■ 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal ■ 10:30 AM Worship ■ 11:35 AM Refreshments	5 Memorial Day	6 David Peters' day off ■ 3:30 PM Piano Lessons (Sandy)	7 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	8 ■ 7:00 PM Deacons	9	10 ■ 10:30 AM Mindful Meditation

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leadership listing

(All 860- unless noted)

As of 4/19/23

Ministers: The Congregation

Moderator: Brian Neff, 354-3177

Clerk: Patricia Fraley, 868-0051

Treasurer: Dale Pinchbeck 355-2497

(Bill or reimbursement requests:
treasurer@roxburychurch.org)

Collector: Beverly Wolmer 203-405-6795

Deacons: David Lincicome (203) 948-2008

Trustees: Bill Steers 354-7210

Stewardship: Brian Neff 354-3177

Missions: Charlie Stauffacher 354-1274

Fellowship: Jeanne Steers, 354-7484

Pastoral Relations: Contact Jerry Smith

Men's Group: Charlie Stauffacher, 354-1274

Historian: Dale Pinchbeck, 355-4297

Librarian: Joan Temple, 350-0529

Staff

Custodian: Bruce Rossiter

Secretary/Newsletter: Secretary, 355-1978

Minister of Music: Sandra Kleisner, 868-9040
sandy@roxburychurch.org

Pastor: The Rev. David F. Peters,
office: 355-1978 home: 355-8830
cell for emergencies: 203-770-6721
david@roxburychurch.org

Roxbury Congregational Church, UCC
24 Church Street
Roxbury, CT 06783
USA
Address Service Requested

faith matters

The Roxbury Congregational Church
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
"We Are a Community Seeking to Share God's Love!"

Church Office: 860-355-1978
e-mail: office@roxburychurch.org
www.roxburychurch.org

Church Office, 24 Church Street
Roxbury, Connecticut 06783-1703

NEWSLETTER – May 2023

Worship – Sundays 10:30 a.m. in person & online

We Are a Community Seeking to Share God's Love!

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST